

Secondary container labels in schools

Following the Globally Harmonized System for Hazard Communication (GHS), all chemicals in school science, art and technical classrooms must have adequate labels. This includes secondary containers with diluted or mixed solutions.

All labels should provide quick information with at least the chemical common name, and a combination of words, pictures or symbols that provide information regarding the physical and health hazards of the substance.



All secondary container labels should tell the following:

WHAT IS IT?

- Use common language that matches what is on the Safety Data Sheet.
- Containers of non-hazardous substances (e.g., distilled water) should also be labeled to avoid confusion.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

- Physical and health hazards should be clear. It doesn't have to be pictograph but all warnings should be accounted for.

WHAT PROTECTION IS NEEDED?

- Any emergency responses including eyewash, shower or other means to stop the reaction.

My containers are too small? What should I do?
Batch labeling – put small containers in a chemical safe bin with the label on the bin. Small bottles should at minimum have the name. Return small containers to bin as soon as done.

Who is responsible for proper labeling?
You are! The person doing the transfer and dilution should always be responsible for the labeling of secondary containers. If you have a container without a label, treat it with extreme caution.

How should I store my Safety Data Sheets (SDS)?
To best aid in an emergency, all SDS should be readily available. While the use of cloud and electronic storage is gaining in popularity, it is recommended to keep printed versions on hand for the most hazardous chemicals so the SDS can be sent to the hospital with the injured person.

Resources

[Chapter 296-901 WAC Globally Harmonized System for Hazard Communication](#)

[Washington State Department of Health - School Environmental Health and Safety Program](#)

[Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington](#)

[Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust](#)

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office / Voice: 564.397.2322 / Relay: 711 or 800.833.6388 / Email: ADA@clark.wa.gov



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